

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Before paragraph [0001], add the heading --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before paragraph [0007], add the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Delete paragraph [0008].

Amend the following paragraphs:

[0009] -- ~~The stent according to~~ According to one aspect of the invention,
a stent includes a tubular support frame which is expandable from an initial state
to a support state. The support frame is made of ring segments which are
arranged sequentially in longitudinal stent axis and formed by struts which are
joined continuously in a wave-like manner in circumferential direction of the
support frame. Adjacent ring segments are linked by differently long connectors
with U-shaped compensating sections. All these compensating sections point in
accordance with the invention in a same circumferential direction. Connectors of
different length alternate in circumferential direction as well as in longitudinal
stent axis.--.

[0013] -- The ~~stents~~ stent according to the invention ~~are~~ is respectively
designed to conform to body vessels of different diameter. A principal
configuration in the initial state involves wave-like ring segments and the
interposed connectors. The latter are designed geometrically, in particular with
respect to length of the diagonal struts and their relative angular disposition, in
such a manner that the wave crests on one hand and the wave valleys on the
other hand of adjacent ring segments oppose one another frontally[[],] ~~as set
forth in claim 2.--.~~

[0014] -- A characteristic feature of the invention is further that the struts are curved arcuately and merge into one another via arcuate sections, with all struts being curved in the same circumferential direction ~~[[(claim 3)]]~~. This is advantageous for the crimping procedure.--.

[0015] -- The connectors are placed behind one another in longitudinal stent axis so as to realize a wave-like continuous band of connectors, with short and long connectors changing alternately. According to ~~the features set forth in claim 4~~ another feature of the present invention, the connections of the connectors, arranged successively in longitudinal stent axis, to the arcuate sections - i.e. in the nodal points - oppose one another frontally. Also this measure positively affects the force pattern in the support frame to resist forces exerted from outside upon the nodal points and deflect them into the struts.--.

[0016] -- According to ~~the feature set forth in claim 5~~ another feature of the present invention, the long connectors have arcuate legs which are disposed on both sides of the compensating sections and, in correspondence with the overall design, are curved in the same circumferential direction as the struts.--.

Before paragraph **[0019]**, add the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.

Before paragraph **[0023]**, add the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Page 7, delete completely.

Page 8, after the heading "CLAIMS" and before the first claim add --What is claimed is:--.